

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 04756 01 OF 04 201757Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 EB-07 SIL-01 IO-13 INRE-00
/076 W

-----015322 201930Z /42

O 201650Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5857

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 4 LA PAZ 4756

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, BL

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS LETTER

REF: STATE 139605

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE MET WITH TWO OF THE AMERICANS INVOLVED WITH REF REPORT. THE HOUR LONG MEETING SEEMED FRIENDLY AND USEFUL TO ALL PARTICIPANTS. THE EMBASSY INTENDS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP AND HAS INVITED THEIR VIEWS AND COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN BOLIVIA. THE EMBASSY ALSO WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH OTHER NON-OFFICIAL OBSERVERS AND WITH GOB OFFICIALS HAVING AN INTEREST IN OR INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN BOLIVIA.

2. EMBASSY OFFICERS CALLED ATTENTION OF THE TWO AMERICANS TO ONE OR TWO RATHER BASIC MISCONCEPTIONS REFLECTED IN THEIR "COMPLEMENTARY REPORT". FIRST, THE U.S. CONSUL IN LA PAZ DID NOT REPEAT NOT PREPARE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE EMBASSY TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT. SECOND, THE EMBASSY CONTRIBUTION WAS PREPARED DECEMBER 1976 AND THEREFORE, IT WAS IN SOME RESPECTS DATED. THIRD, THE DEPARTMENT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 04756 01 OF 04 201757Z

WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FINAL REPORT SENT TO CONGRESS AND DREW ON SOURCES OTHER THAN THE EMBASSY FOR ITS PREPARATION. FOURTH, THE AMBASSADOR AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING OFFICER WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EMBASSY LA PAZ CONTRIBUTION AND WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO MAKE THE FINAL DECISIONS ON FUTURE REPORTING.

3. DEPARTMENTS ATTENTION ALSO IS DIRECTED TO AN ERROR IN THE ENGLISH TEXT IN SECTION 2.9. CORRECT VERSION FROM SPANISH TEXT SHOULD READ QUOTE (2.9.1) FOR ONE YEAR THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS DID NOT REPEAT NO VISIT BOLIVIA. (2.9.2) THE BOLIVIAN RED CROSS DOES NOT REPEAT NO HAVE ENOUGH AUTONOMY IN ORDER TO VISIT ALL THE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND EXERT INFLUENCE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A POSITIVE IMPROVEMENT IN THE INHUMAN CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE MAJORITY OF THEM FIND THEMSELVES UNQUOTE. ENGLISH TEXT ERRONEOUSLY STATES ICRC DOESN'T HAVE INDEPENDENCE OF GOB.

4. FOLLOWING ARE REMAINING SPECIFIC EMBASSY COMMENTS PEGGED TO NUMBERING OF SUBJECT REPORT: 1. EMBASSY REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON SELICH AND COCHABAMBA INCIDENTS. HOWEVER, DURING CY 1976 IT DID NOT REPEAT NOT APPEAR TO EMBASSY THAT QUOTE THREAT OF LOSS OF LIFE UNQUOTE WAS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN BOLIVIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM. IMPRISONMENT AND/OR EXILE WERE. (1.2) EMBASSY AND STATE REPORTS INCLUDED GOB STATEMENTS AS AN OBJECTIVE FACT. (1.3) REPORT IS NOW OUT OF DATE; IT WAS CURRENT AT TIME OF EMBASSY CONTRIBUTION. (1.4) INCORRECT. DEPARTMENT SHOULD RESPOND TO REMARKS RE GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS. HOWEVER, AI IS NOT AN OFFICIAL GOB SOURCE, NOR ILO, NOR FREEDOM HOUSE NOR SIP.

5. FREEDOM OF UNIONS (2.1.1) REPORTED BY STATE. (2.1.2) REPORTED IN DETAIL BY EMBASSY AND ILO. (2.1.3) TRUE. (2.1.4) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LA PAZ 04756 01 OF 04 201757Z

AND (2.1.5) ARE CORRECT AS FAR AS DECREES GO BUT CONTROLLED "FEDERATION-LIKE "ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUE. (2.1.6) SOME LEADERS DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED HAVE BEEN "DISAUTHORIZED". EMBASSY ESTIMATES 80 TO 90 PERCENT OF "COORDINATORS" PREVIOUSLY HAD HELD LABOR POSITIONS, E.G., SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMERCIAL WORKERS WAS DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED TO TWO YEAR TERM OCTOBER 1974 AND TEN APPOINTED BY GOB IN NOVEMBER 1974. (2.1.7) SEE ILO REPORT AND EMBASSY CONTRIBUTION RE AI COMMENTS. STATEMENT THAT "MAJORITY OF OFFICIALS ARE ACTIVELY PERSECUTED ETC." DOES NOT REPEAT NOT CORRESPOND TO EMBASSY FINDINGS. (2.1.8) TWENTY-SEVEN MINERS WERE EXILED TO CHILE ALONG WITH FIVE MINERS RADIO BROADCASTERS AND SEVENTEEN NON-MINER WORKER SYMPATHIZERS. MINERS STRIKE AND MANACO STRIKE (JANUARY 1976) WERE QUITE DIFFERENT. UNION LEADERS AT MANACO TALKED OF TEN OR ELEVEN LEADERS WHO WERE SUSPENDED BUT FINALLY WERE NOT FIRED OR CUT OFF FROM BENEFITS AS WERE SOME MINERS (UNDER 200). AGAIN SEE ILO REPORT. SEVERAL SMALL WORK STOPPAGES WHICH GAINED THEIR AIMS PROVOKED NO REPEAT NO REPRISALS. LEGALLY STRIKES ARE FORBIDDEN.

6. ECONOMIC SITUATION (2.2.1) EMBASSY BELIEVES GOB'S OFFICIAL ESTIMATES RATE OF INFLATION OF 12 IS PROBABLY

MORE ACCURATE THAN 15 PERCENT. (2.2.2) ACCORDING TO BOLIVIAN PRESS, BOLIVIA'S RATHER REMARKABLE ECONOMIC PROGRESS WAS NOTED BY SECRETARY VANCE AT OAS WHO ALSO URGED CORRESPONDING ADVANCES IN SOCIAL AND JUDICIARY FIELDS. (2.2.3) STUDY SHOWS 25 PERCENT DECLINE IN BUYING POWER OF FACTORY-WORKERS (28,000 MEMBERS ARE CLAIMED BY FEDERATION). WE SUSPECT THAT REAL WAGES FOR MOST OF THESE WORKERS HAVE IN FACT GONE DOWN BUT WE DO NOT HAVE RELIABLE DATA ON HOW MUCH.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 04756 02 OF 04 201816Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 EB-07 SIL-01 IO-13 INRE-00
/076 W

-----015560 201931Z /42

O 201650Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5858

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 4 LA PAZ 4756

7. LEGAL SITUATION. ITEMS (2.3.1) THROUGH (2.3.3) ARE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. (2.3.4) HISTORICAL OBSERVATION IS TRUE BUT AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS IN U.S. CITIZEN CASES THE CURRENT STATUS OF EXECUTIVE-JUDICIAL RELATIONS ARE LESS SIMPLE THEN REST OF STATEMENT SUGGESTS. (2.3.5), (2.3.6) AND (2.3.7) ARE CORRECT. EMBASSY CANNOT REFUTE OR AFFIRM CHARGES IN (2.3.8). WE SUSPECT THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS SOMETIMES ARE HELD IN PLACES OTHER THAN REGULAR JAILS. EMBASSY NOW AWARE OF "PAROLE SYSTEM", (2.3.9) IN CASE OF SOME RELEASED MINE-WORKERS AND OTHERS. EMBASSY COMMENTED ON (2.3.11) IN REFERENCE TO SIMILAR CLAIM BY AI. THERE IS NOT MUCH TERRORISM, BUT ELN FOR EXAMPLE IS STILL PREPARED TO USE VIOLENCE.

8. SITUATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS (2.4.1) NILA HEREDIA (MEDICO) NOW REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN IN JAIL OVER 15 MONTHS; JORGE SOLOGUREN (MEDICAL STUDENT AT UMSA) PERHAPS FOR A LONGER PERIOD (18 MONTHS PLUS); (MARCOS FARFAN (UNIVERSITY STUDENT) WAS RECENTLY RELEASED "ON PAROLE". ANTONIO PEREDO REPORTEDLY IS STILL IN JAIL. HE IS THE BROTHER OF TWO OF CHE GUEVARA'S BOLIVIAN LIEUTENANTS WHO HAVE LONG ENGAGED IN GUERRILLA

ACTIVITIES. (2.4.2) EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE DATA RE FIRST STATEMENT AND IS SKEPTICAL THAT IT COULD BE PROVEN. WE ASSUME SECURITY FORCES SURVEY SOME OF RELEASED POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 04756 02 OF 04 201816Z

PRISONERS. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT THINK THAT ACCURATE FIGURES EXIST RE NUMBERS OF EXILES. SOME OBSERVERS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT ABOUT 3,000 BOLIVIANS WERE EXILED OR LEFT BOLIVIA FOR FEAR OF PERSECUTION AFTER AUGUST 1971. THE PROBLEM WITH (2.4.4) IS WHAT IS QUOTE VERY COMMON UNQUOTE. DURING THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF THE MINES (JUNE-JULY 1976) HOMES OF WORKERS IN THE MINE AREAS WERE ENTERED WITHOUT PERMISSION AS WELL AS HOMES OF MINE WORKER LEADERS IN LA PAZ (AGAIN SEE ILO REPORT). WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT RAIDS ARE QUOTE VERY COMMON UNQUOTE. AS EMBASSY HAS OFTEN REMARKED, THE NUMBERS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS CHANGE FAIRLY RAPIDLY, FOR EXAMPLE, ON JUNE 9, 1977, MINISTER OF INTERIOR PEREDA STATED THAT IN THE PRISONS OF THE COUNTRY THERE WERE SEVENTY (70) DETAINEES AMONG WHOM WERE THREE MINeworkERS; THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOLIVIAN RED CROSS JUNE 15 SAID THAT THE AGENCY IS DELIVERING MEDICINE AND FOOD TO SEVENTY-FIVE (75) POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WHO WERE DETAINED AT CHONCORO AND ACHOCALLA JAILS. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATES OF 123 AND QUOTE ABOUT 150 UNQUOTE DURING PAST MONTH. HOWEVER, SINCE THE APPEARANCE OF THE REFERENCE REPORT MAY 14, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL RELEASES AND SOME DETENTIONS. FURTHERMORE, NEITHER THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR NOR THE AMERICAN GROUP HAVE DEFINED WHETHER PERSONS UNDER QUESTIONING ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS FOR EXAMPLE THOSE HELD TEMPORARILY AT DOP HEADQUARTERS. FYI, INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE PLUS A DOCTOR HAS JUST COMPLETED VISITS WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS INCLUDING THOSE AT DOP END FY. NOR, IS BOLIVIAN RED CROSS PRESIDENT STATEMENT CLEAR, SINCE THE RED CROSS MAY NOT REPEAT NOT BE AIDING ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS. (BASIC IDEA OF ICRC WHICH FUNDS THIS OPERATION IS TO AID NEEDY POLITICAL PRISONERS AND FAMILIES).

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LA PAZ 04756 02 OF 04 201816Z

9. TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS (2.5 ITEMS (2.5.1) AND (2.5.2) ARE DIFFICULT TO CONFIRM OR DENY. HOWEVER, WHEN EMBASSY CONTRIBUTION TO STATE'S REPORT WAS MADE WE WERE NOT AWARE OF SUCH A SITUATION AFTER TALKS WITH RELIABLE FIRST-HAND OBSERVERS. EMBASSY OPINION IS THAT BOTH STATEMENTS ARE TOO SWEEPING SINCE THEY DO NOT APPLY TO SOME OF RELEASED

POLITICAL PRISONERS WITH WHOM SUBJECT OF TORTURE WAS DISCUSSED.
EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW ACTUAL STATE OF WOMEN PRISONERS
(2.5.3). UNOFFICIAL LIST CITES EIGHT WOMEN IN JAIL, THREE
OF WHOM WERE HELD OVER A YEAR. NEWSPAPERS, BOG OFFICIALS,
(INCLUDING MINISTER OF INTERIOR) HAVE OFTEN DESCRIBED JAIL
CONDITIONS IN BOLIVIA AS VERY BAD. RECENTLY RELEASED
POLITICAL PRISONER UNDERSTOOD DAILY FOOD RATION ALLOTMENT
WAS ABOUT SEVEN PESOS (OR 35 CENTS) PER DAY. AS REGARDS
TORTURE (2.5.4) THIS PERSON WAS NOT REPEAT NOT TORTURED HOWEVER,
HE CLAIMED THAT FIVE MINE WORKERS WERE TORTURED IN APRIL 1977.
STATEMENT BY MONSIGNOR MESTRE FORMERLY CHURCH REP FOR
POLITICAL PRISONERS APPEARED IN MARCH 17, 1977 PRESENCIA
(WE BELIEVE THIS OCCURRED AFTER STATE REPORT SENT TO CONGRESS).
THE REPORT OF FATHER ROBERT LEIBRECHT TO EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE
WAS NOT REPEAT NOT PUBLISHED NOR AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY.
HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER ASKED ABOUT FATHER ROBERT'S REPORT AND
CHANCES OF MEETING HIM BUT HE APPARENTLY HAS BEEN OUT OF
LA PAZ FOR AN EXTENDED TIME. EMBASSY STILL DOES NOT REPEAT
NOT HAVE FATHER ROBERT'S REPORT. ITEM (2.5.4.3) APPEARED IN
PRESS IN MAY 1977. ITEM (2.5.4.4) CANNOT BE CONFIRMED OR
DISPROVED BY EMBASSY. RECENTLY FOREIGN OBSERVER SAW ALL
THOSE PRISONERS WHOM HE REQUESTED TO SEE. RECENT ALLEGATIONS
OF TORTURE OF FIVE POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY
EMBASSY AND WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THESE CHANGES. NONETHELESS,
THE EMBASSY (ALONG WITH AI) STILL THINK THAT THERE ARE
REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR BELIEVING THAT SYSTEMATIC BRUTALITY
TOWARDS POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA HAS DIMINISHED
DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS.

10. SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL NORMS (2.6). EMBASSY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 LA PAZ 04756 02 OF 04 201816Z

DOES NOT REPEAT NOT KNOW IF THIS ALLEGATION IS TRUE OR FALSE.
THE FORTY-NINE BOLIVIANS EXILED TO CHILE IN JUNE/JULY 1976
WERE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS POLITICAL DEPORTEES AS WAS
ANOTHER SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS EXILED IN JANUARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 LA PAZ 04756 02 OF 04 201816Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 04756 03 OF 04 201850Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 EB-07 SIL-01 IO-13 INRE-00
/076 W

-----015871 201929Z /42

O 201650Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5859

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 3 OF 4 LA PAZ 4756

11. (ITEM 2.7) EMBASSY HAS ONLY RECENTLY OBTAINED UNOFFICIAL LIST DATED MARCH 1977 OF ALLEGED PRISONERS AND SOME PAST POLITICAL PRISONERS AND EXILES. EMBASSY HAS SPENT ABOUT 10-15 WORK DAYS ON SPECIFIC CASES OF AMNESTY LISTS OF PAST TWO YEARS. SEVERAL POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND EMBASSY DOES NOT REPEAT NOT SHARE REF REPORT VIEW THAT QUOTE AMNESTY HAS TURNED OUT TO BE A FARCE UNQUOTE. EMBASSY AWARE OF DISCREPANCIES AND CHARGES DESCRIBED ITEMS (2.7.1) AND (2.7.3). OTHER EXAMPLES EXIST E.G., ONE PERSON AMNESTIED FOR "POLITICAL EXILE" HAD NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN EXILED AND NAMES ARE OFTEN MISSPELLED OR MIXED UP. EMBASSY HAS NO REPEAT NO CONFIRMATION OF CHARGES (2.7.2) AND (2.7.4) ALTHOUGH WE WERE AWARE OF SUCH ALLEGATIONS.

12. (ITEM 2.8) BISHOPS REPRESENTATIVES. EMBASSY CONTRIBUTION TO STATE REPORT TOOK PLACE WHEN BISHOP MESTRE WAS STILL VISITING PRISONERS. WE ARE CONCERNED AT LATER REPORTS OF DIFFICULTIES IN VISITS BY CHURCH REPS THIS YEAR (1977) ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE NOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH VISITS. AS ITEM (2.8.4) INDICATES THE ISSUE OF WHO IS THE REP OF THE CHURCH HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED IN BOLIVIA.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 04756 03 OF 04 201850Z

13. ITEM (2.9) IN ENGLISH DIFFERS FROM SPANISH TEXT. ICRC IS THE AUTHORIZED INDEPENDENT GROUP WHICH HAS JUST COMPLETED VISIT TO POLITICAL PRISONERS INCLUDING WE UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY THOSE PRISONERS DETAINED IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. EMBASSY DOES NOT REPEAT NOT KNOW WHEN AT LAST VISITED BOLIVIA.

14. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. LOCAL PAPER JANUARY 12, 1976 CARRIED REQUEST FOR AMNESTY FOR EIGHTEEN EXILED JOURNALISTS AND THE BOLIVIAN UNION OF WRITERS PETITIONED FOR EIGHTEEN WRITERS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT 58 JOURNALISTS (2.10) ARE IN EXILE, BUT EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE A LIST. IVAN PAZ IS KNOWN TO LOCAL PRESS ASSOCIATION BUT ZAPATA IS NOT REPEAT NOT. BOTH ARE BELIEVED TO BE IN JAIL. IN LAST REPORT OF SIP KNOWN TO EMBASSY THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS ORGANIZATION CHARACTERIZED BOLIVIA AS HAVING QUOTE NO KNOWN VIOLATIONS UNQUOTE. THIS WAS A CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS DESCRIPTION OF HAVING QUOTE A FREE PRESS UNQUOTE. ITEM (2.10.3) IS DISCUSSED IN ILO REPORT; RE (2.10.4) WE UNDERSTAND THAT RADIO FIDES WAS FINED AND THAT GOVERNMENT FORCES OCCUPIED PIUS XII RADIO (EMBASSY AND FBIS REPORTS COVERED LATTER INCIDENT IN SOME DETAIL). EMBASSY INFORMED THAT RADIO PROGRESSO CLOSURE WAS OVER TAX ISSUE. PRESS IN LA PAZ AND COCHABAMBA PUBLISHED SEVERE CRITICISM OF GOB PLAN TO EXCHANGE TERRITORY WITH CHILE FOR A SEA OUTLET. BOG IN FACT CHANGED ITS INITIAL EXCHANGE POLICY TO ACCOMMODATE TO THESE VIEWS. ITEM (2.10.5) ILO OBSERVER, US AND UK EMBASSIES HAVE ENTERED MINING AREAS. EMBASSY SPOKE RECENTLY WITH JOURNALIST WHO CLAIMED HE WAS VISITING MINING AREAS. THERE ARE CONTROL POINTS AND MILITARY CONTINUE TO BE POSITIONED IN OR AROUND MINING CENTERS. DESPITE DECREE (ITEM 2.10.6) CRITICISM OF GOB AND USUALLY UNNAMED OFFICIALS CONTINUES IN PRESS AND RADIO.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LA PAZ 04756 03 OF 04 201850Z

15. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS SUBMITTING THESE COMMENTS TO REASSURE DEPARTMENT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IS AN ITEM OF CONTINUING INTEREST TO THE U.S. MISSION IN LA PAZ. OUR COMMENTS MAY ALSO SHOW THAT ANY DETAILED ACCOUNTING OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HERE RISKS PRESENTING DATA, ESTIMATES OR OPINIONS THAT ARE EITHER INACCURATE, UTDATED OR DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN. HOWEVER, EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT EITHER FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF DENIGRATING OR UNDERMINING THE ACCURACY OF THE SUBJECT REPORT. AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY KNOWS, THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE MAKING OF THE REPORT ARE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BOLIVIA AND HAVE TALKED TO PRISONERS RELEASED PRISONERS, AND EXILES AS WELL AS THEIR FAMILIES. A MAJOR DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT AND THE REFERENCE REPORT INVOLVE CHRONOLOGY IN MANY INSTANCES AND SOME DIFFERENCE OF PERSPECTIVE IN OTHERS. IN GENERAL, THE CHARGES OF THE SUBJECT REPORT REGARDING ITEMS: 2.1.6; 2.1.7; 2.1.8; 2.3.11; 2.4.2; 2.4.4; 2.5; 2.6; 2.7.3; AND 2.10 SEEM OVERSTATED OR TOO SWEEPING. SPECIFIC EXAMPLES EXIST TO SUPPORT CRITICISM IN ALL THESE AREAS BUT THE REPORT PAINTS AN OVERLY DRAMATIC PICTURE. THIS IS OF COURSE A QUALITATIVE JUDGMENT MUCH AS THE SUBJECT

REPORT'S MAIN CRITICISM OF STATE'S REPORT WAS.

16. STATE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO EXPLAIN IF ASKED THAT MUCH OF THE INFO IN SUBJECT REPORT APPEARED AFTER THE STATE REPORT WAS COMPLETED E.G. MESTRE LETTER, ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE FROM PRIESTS IN COCHABAMBA AND DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN CHURCH AND GOB. FATHER ROBERT LEIBRECHT'S REPORT HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED PUBLICLY NOR WAS IT OFFERED TO EMBASSY PRIVATELY. AS FAR AS ITS GENERALIZATIONS, REASONABLE PEOPLE WILL DIFFER AS TO HOW BOLIVIA COMPARES TO ITS PAST OR TO ITS NEIGHBORS AND MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD IN THE PRESENT. DEPARTMENT WELCOMES ANY VERIFIABLE INFORMATION CONTRIBUTING TO MORE ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BOLIVIA.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 LA PAZ 04756 03 OF 04 201850Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 LA PAZ 04756 03 OF 04 201850Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 04756 04 OF 04 201841Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 EB-07 SIL-01 IO-13 INRE-00

/076 W

-----015757 201929Z /53

O 201650Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5860

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 4 OF 4 LA PAZ 4756

17. ALTHOUGH THE REPORT TO DEPARTMENT WAS REPORTEDLY SIGNED THE NAMES SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE RELEASED WITHOUT THE

SPECIFIC APPROVAL OF THE SIGNATORIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, EXCEPT
FOR THE COVER LETTER TO ASST SECRETARY TODAMN WHICH WAS
SIGNED BY ARTHUR J. SIST, EMBASSY HAS SEEN NO REPEAT NO
SIGNATURES TO REF REPORT BY QUOTE AMERICAN RESIDENTS
OF BOLIVIA UNQUOTE. REPORTEDLY LETTER SENT TO DEPARTMENT
WAS SIGNED.
STEDMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAPAZ04756
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770219-1149
Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770640/aaaabizl.tel
Line Count: 447
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0180e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 9
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 139605
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2097843
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS LETTER
TAGS: SHUM, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0180e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009